

National Archery in the Schools Program on Capitol Hill (Video transcript)

Roy Grimes: What if school superintendents, principals, and teachers said the course improves behavior, attendance – by 8% by the way – and grades? And what if, after 2.3 million archery students, there were no accidents? To put 2.3 million kids through almost anything and somebody will have an accident, but not in archery.

[Arrows hitting target]

We were concerned that too many of our young people were staying indoors – they weren't going outside and interacting in wild places with wild things – and we were losing customers, frankly, supporters of conservation. So we decided to try to create a shooting program that would be taught in school, so shooting could be cooler with the kids.

Instructor: Then you pre-draw, draw, anchor, aim, shot setup, release ...

Roy Grimes: Educators tell us that the students really love the archery program and it engages the students. It gets some students who weren't really involved in school outside the classroom to get more excited about their education. And teachers are telling us that kids that weren't participating before are participating now. In some cases, their grades are better, their attendance is better on days when they're teaching archery. We've got stories – in every school, there are stories of a youngster that used to have behavioral problems that no longer has them. So, schools are getting better performance out of their students.

[Whistle blows]

We knew that the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus was the largest caucus of legislators in this city. And we knew that they would be interested in this program that teaches millions of kids basic shooting skills. So we wanted to come here and show them what we were doing. We figured they'd get excited about it and want to help us. And the way they can help us is to help identify existing grant programs within the federal budget, or help create new ones, that'll help schools that can't get in a program because they can't afford \$6 per student – that's about the \$3,000 kit, over 500 kids, that's about what it costs – the schools can't find the money, we're hoping these Congressmen can help them find the money. And then they can bring this to their student body and it'll be there for years and years.

[Arrows hitting target, cheering]

